

TRANSMISSION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWING

[Words excised] the Berlin leadership - governing Mayor Brandt and others - favored the overall approach of the US in its talks with the Soviets on Berlin. They were more interested in the details than in the general approach, however. Mr. Kohler said we regarded Brandt, and the Berliners generally, as key people in the situation and that we had never been quite certain they felt that they were being kept fully informed by the Federal Republic. He noted Brand's statement on intra-Berlin arrangements which appeared to indicate that he was unaware this had been included in one of the papers prepared for talks with the Soviets. [Words excised] had received information about the papers

[line excised]
[word excised] but did not recall a paragraph on this subject. [words excised]
[word excised] they were particularly interested in this matter. Mr. Kohler said the US was also, but warned against having illusions as to the likelihood of anything significant being agreed on. [excised] asked for his estimate of the Soviet reaction and Mr. Kohler replied that since the revised form of the paper, containing the paragraph, had not been shown to the Russians he would not want to commit himself on that point. He pointed out, however, that the Russians had rejected our earlier all-Berlin proposal. We noted that the reason for our not having shown the paper to the Russians was the leak in Bonn and the resulting situation.

With respect to the leak, [words excised] volunteered that he and Brandt had seen Ambassador Grewe's April 9 report on the two papers for the first time on April 11, after they had lunched with journalists, and thus obviously could not have been responsible. He now asked if we considered US-German relations strained as a result of the leak. Mr. Kohler said we were inclined to regard

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

462-074-2562

EXCISE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE - WASHINGTON

DATE: April 23, 1962
Mr. Kohler's Office
3:00 p.m.

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(b)(7)(a)(9)

MR - Roy D. Kohler
MR - Arthur R. Bay

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(b)(7)(a)(9) [] but did not recall a paragraph on this subject. [] they were particularly interested in this matter. Mr. Kohler said the US was also, but turned against having illusions as to the likelihood of anything significant being agreed on. [] said for his estimate of the Soviet position and Mr. Kohler replied that since the Soviet Union of the paper, containing the paragraph, had not been shown to the Russians he would not want to commit himself on that point. He pointed out, however, that the Russians had rejected our earlier offer of Berlin proposal. He stated that the Russian for our not having shown the paper to the Russians had not been in Bonn and the resulting situation. [] pointed out that he and Brandt had seen Ambassador Gromyko's April 9 report on the two papers for the USSR with on April 11. After they had talked with journalists, and was obviously could not have been responsible. He now asked if an outsider of US-Soviet relations should be a result of the talk. Mr. Kohler said we were inclined to regard [] the fact that []

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the incident as a problem of internal German politics and not of US-German relations. [Words excised]

[Excised] then asked if we expected to reach an agreement with the Soviets on Berlin. Mr. Kohler replied we were quite sure the Russians were impressed by our military build-up, and it seemed clear they recognized their course was a dangerous one. They seemed to want to continue talking. However, there had so far been not the slightest agreement on essentials. They were of course probing us too, and it was quite conceivable that if we continued to refuse to give anything of substance they would let the issue rest for awhile. Alternatively, they might accept some face-saving formula. There were a few encouraging signs that we might be able to agree on maintaining the status quo.

[paragraph excised]

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